

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached Replacement Sheets of drawings (Figs. 1-8) include proposed changes to Figs. 7 and 8, for which approval of the Examiner is respectfully requested.

In Figs. 7 and 8, reference numerals 52 and 54 were added to identify, firstly, a region 52 extending out of the manifold 51 and, next, a region 54 of the shaving aid body portion 42 of the second mold 44. Support for the proposed amendments may be found in the original disclosure at least at paragraph [0028], lines 9 and 11, respectively. Thus, no new matter is added.

REMARKS

In the present Office Action the Examiner states that Claims 1-18 are pending and were examined, Claims 1-18 were rejected, Claims 1 and 11 were objected to, and no claims were allowed.

By this Amendment and Reply, Claims 1 and 5-11 were amended, no claims were canceled and Claims 19-25 were added. Accordingly, Claims 1-25 remain pending for further examination. Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the above-identified amendments and following discussion is respectfully requested.

Proposed Amendment to the Drawings:

Appended to this Amendment and Reply are five (5) Replacement Sheets for all of the figures (Figs. 1-8), which include proposed amendments to FIGS. 7 and 8. The proposed amendments, which are described above, are incorporated into the Replacement Sheets and highlighted using red-ink markings in annotated sheets appended hereto. No new matter is added.

The Examiner's approval of the proposed drawing amendments is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Claims:

In the Office Action the Examiner objects to Claims 1 and 11 noting minor informalities with respect to a clause "during the forming of the shaving aid body" recited in Claim 1 and an allegedly missing phrase "producing a" between the words "for" and "shaving" in Claim 11.

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended with the Examiner's comments in mind. In view of these amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the objection to Claims 1 and 11.

Prior Art Rejections:

In the Office Action the Examiner rejects Claims 1-3, 5-6, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Conrad, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,079,839) stating, in summary, that Conrad, Jr. et al. show that it is known to carry out the method for producing a shaving cartridge as recited in the instant claims.

Without addressing the patentability of Claims 1-3, 5-6 and 8 as previously presented in view of Conrad, Jr. et al., and merely to streamline prosecution of the present application, clarifying amendments have been made to Claims 1, 5-6 and 8.

In view of the clarifying amendments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Conrad, Jr. et al. as Conrad, Jr. et al. are not seen to expressly describe or suggest all of the limitations of these claims, as now written. For example, Claim 1, as now written, recites:

“1. A method for producing a shaving aid cartridge, comprising the steps of:
 forming in a first mold a base having features for attaching the shaving aid cartridge to a razor assembly, the first mold including a base portion and a common portion;
 engaging the common portion of the first mold with a shaving aid body portion to collectively form a closed second mold, the common portion containing the formed base; and
 forming in the second mold a shaving aid body attached to the formed base.”

It is respectfully submitted that Conrad, Jr. et al. are not seen to expressly describe or suggest all of the limitations of independent Claim 1 as now written. In that independent Claim 1 is deemed allowable, the claims that depend from and further limit this independent claim, are deemed allowable.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-6 and 8, as now written, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Conrad, Jr. et al.

In the Office Action the Examiner rejects Claims 4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Conrad, Jr. et al. in view of Yin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,711,076). This rejection is respectfully disagreed with, and is traversed below.

Firstly, Applicants note that a limitation previously recited in dependent Claim 7 has been removed by amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of Claim 7, as now written, in view of the proposed combination of Conrad, Jr. et al. and Yin et al. is moot. Accordingly, the rejection of Claim 7 should be withdrawn.

With respect to Claim 4, the Examiner states, in pertinent part, that “Conrad, Jr. shows the process as discussed in the rejection of Claim 1 above, but he does not show a shaving aid body that comprises a soap material. Yin et al., ..., show that it is known to carry out a method for making a shaving aid cartridge wherein the shaving aid body comprises a soap material (Column 4, lines 49-56).” See the Office Action at page 4, second paragraph.

Assuming, arguendo, that the proposed combination of Conrad, Jr. et al. and Yin et al. is proper and that Yin et al. disclose a shaving aid body that comprises a soap material as is asserted by the Examiner, points that are neither admitted nor denied, Yin et al. are not seen to cure the above argued deficiencies in the application of Conrad, Jr. et al. to the subject matter as now recited in independent Claim 1 at least since the proposed combination of Conrad, Jr. et al. and Yin et al. does not expressly or implicitly, describe or suggest all of the subject matter of independent Claim 1, as now written. In view thereof, the proposed combination does not render Claim 4 obvious, at least since Claim 4, either directly or through intervening claims, depends from and further limits independent Claim 1.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claims 4 and 7, as now written, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Conrad, Jr. et al. in view of Yin et al.

In the Office Action the Examiner rejects Claims 9, 11, 14 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Conrad, Jr. et al. in view of Vreeland et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,345,680). This rejection is respectfully disagreed with, and is traversed below.

The deficiencies of Conrad, Jr. et al. are noted above.

The Examiner states, in pertinent part, that “Vreeland shows that it is known to carry out a method including using a first mold to form the base, the first mold including a base portion and a common portion (Column 3, lines 67-68; Column 4, line 1) and engaging the common portion of the first mold with a shaving aid body portion to form a closed second mold, wherein the base remains with the common portion and is disposed within the second mold (Column 4, lines 1-5; It is noted that the modifications needed to form the second mold are being considered the ‘shaving aid body portion’ of the second mold.).” See the Office Action at the paragraph spanning pages 5 and 6.

This characterization of Vreeland et al. is respectfully disagreed with. The relevant section of Vreeland et al. recites:

“Another embodiment of the present invention comprises a process for insert molding a flexible razor head comprising the steps of 1) securely positioning at least one blade in a mold cavity; 2) molding a flexible razor head by injecting at least one polymer, preferably polypropylene, into the mold cavity; 3) modifying said mold cavity to receive a shaving aid on the flexible razor head; and 4) subsequently injecting a polymeric blend into the modified mold cavity wherein said polymeric blend comprises:

polypropylene,
at least one polymer from the group consisting of ABS and polystyrene, and
at least one water-soluble active ingredient, preferably comprising polyethylene oxide.”

See Vreeland et al. at Col. 3, line 64 to Col. 4, line 10.

It is respectfully submitted that Vreeland et al. merely describes providing a mold cavity for forming a flexible razor head and modifying the same mold cavity to receive a polymeric blend of a shaving aid on the flexible razor head. The Examiner asserts that the “modification” of the same mold cavity is deemed to be the introduction of the shaving aid body portion to form the second closed mold as taught by and claimed in the present invention.

However, it is not seen where Vreeland et al. describes or suggests formation of a second closed mold by introduction of a new member, namely the shaving aid body portion. The advantages of adding a new member which, as recited in the dependent claims, provides contours to the shaving aid body, are recognized only by the Applicants and are not expressly or implicitly disclosed or suggested in Vreeland et al. either alone or in the proposed combination with Conrad, Jr. et al. The present invention alone describes forming a shaving aid cartridge employing a sequential process of forming a base in a first mold and subsequently forming the shaving aid cartridge by injecting shaving aid material into a second mold that contains the formed base. For example, independent Claim 11, as now written, recites:

“A method for producing a shaving aid cartridge, comprising the steps of:
injecting a thermoplastic material into a closed first mold to form a base, the first mold including a base portion and a common portion;
engaging the common portion of the first mold with a shaving aid body portion to form a closed second mold, wherein the base remains with the common portion and is disposed within the second mold;
injecting a shaving aid material into the second mold to form a shaving aid body;
and

removing the shaving aid cartridge that includes the base coupled to the shaving aid body from the second mold.”

It is respectfully submitted that the proposed combination of Conrad, Jr. et al. and Vreeland et al. do not suggest or make obvious, for example, engaging a common portion of a first mold with a shaving aid body portion to form a closed second mold as recited in amended independent Claim 11. Independent Claim 1 includes a similar limitation. It is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 11 is deemed patentable over the teachings of the proposed combination of Conrad, Jr. et al. and Vreeland et al. Since independent Claim 11 is deemed patentable, then Claims 14 and 17 are also deemed patentable over the teachings of the proposed combination of Conrad, Jr. et al. and Vreeland et al.

Since independent Claim 1 includes a similar limitation as Claim 11, independent Claim 1 and Claim 9, which depends from and further limits Claim 1, are deemed patentable over the teachings of the proposed combination of Conrad, Jr. et al. and Vreeland et al.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claims 9, 11, 14 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Conrad, Jr. et al. and Vreeland et al.

In the Office Action the Examiner rejects Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Conrad, Jr. et al. as applied to Claims 1, 8 and 9 above, and further in view of Brown et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,852,262). This rejection is respectfully disagreed with, and is traversed below.

Applicants note that a limitation previously recited in dependent Claim 10, namely “cooling a portion of the second mold,” has been removed by amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of Claim 10, as now written, in view of the proposed combination of Conrad, Jr. et al. and Brown et al. is moot.

Accordingly, the rejection of Claim 10 should be withdrawn.

In the Office Action the Examiner rejects Claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Conrad, Jr. et al. in view of Vreeland et al., and further in view of

Brown, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,852,262). This rejection is respectfully disagreed with, and is traversed below.

The deficiencies of Conrad, Jr. et al. and Vreeland et al. with respect to independent Claim 11 are noted above.

The Examiner states "that Brown shows that it is known to carry out a method of making a shaving article comprising the step of cooling at least a portion of a second mold (Column 3, lines 16-25; Column 8, 4-10)." See the Office Action at page 7, second full paragraph.

Assuming, arguendo, that the proposed combination of Conrad, Jr. et al., Vreeland et al. and Brown, Jr. et al. is proper and that Brown, Jr. et al. disclose a step of cooling at least a portion of a second mold as is asserted by the Examiner, points that are neither admitted nor denied, Brown, Jr. et al. are not seen to cure the above argued deficiencies in the application of Conrad, Jr. et al. and Vreeland et al. to the subject matter as now recited in independent Claim 11 at least since the proposed combination of Conrad, Jr. et al. Vreeland et al. and Brown, Jr. et al. does not expressly or implicitly, describe or suggest all of the subject matter of independent Claim 11, as now written. For example, it is respectfully submitted the proposed combination does not suggest or make obvious engaging a common portion of a first mold with a shaving aid body portion to form a closed second mold and injecting a shaving aid material into the second mold to form a shaving aid body, as recited in amended independent Claim 11.

In view thereof, the proposed combination does not render Claims 12 and 13 obvious, at least since Claims 12 and 13, either directly or through intervening claims, depend from and further limits independent Claim 11.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Conrad, Jr. et al., Vreeland et al. and Brown, Jr. et al..

In the Office Action the Examiner rejects Claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Conrad, Jr. et al. in view of Vreeland et al., and further in view of Reischl (U.S. Patent No. 4,595,709). This rejection is respectfully disagreed with, and is traversed below.

The deficiencies of Conrad, Jr. et al. and Vreeland et al. with respect to independent Claim 11 are noted above.

With respect to Claim 15, the Examiner states “that Reischl shows that it is known to carry out a process for molding thermoplastic articles wherein the material is processed into a flowable state using a screw type mixer (Column 3, lines 23-40).” With respect to Claim 16, the Examiner states “that Reischl shows that it is known to carry out a process wherein at least a portion of the screw type mixer is cooled during the processing of material (Column 4, lines 7-10).” See the Office Action at page 8, second and third full paragraphs.

Assuming, arguendo, that the proposed combination of Conrad, Jr. et al., Vreeland et al. and Reischl is proper and that Reischl discloses use of a screw type mixer in a method for producing polyaddition products and cooling the mixer during use, as is asserted by the Examiner, points that are neither admitted nor denied, Reischl is not seen to cure the above argued deficiencies in the application of Conrad, Jr. et al. and Vreeland et al. to the subject matter as now recited in independent Claim 11 at least since the proposed combination of Conrad, Jr. et al. Vreeland et al. and Reischl does not expressly or implicitly, describe or suggest all of the subject matter of independent Claim 11, as now written. For example, it is respectfully submitted the proposed combination does not suggest or make obvious engaging a common portion of a first mold with a shaving aid body portion to form a closed second mold and injecting a shaving aid material into the second mold to form a shaving aid body, as recited in amended independent Claim 11.

In view thereof, the proposed combination does not render Claims 15 and 16 obvious, at least since Claims 15 and 16, either directly or through intervening claims, depend from and further limits independent Claim 11.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Conrad, Jr. et al., Vreeland et al. and Reischl.

In the Office Action the Examiner rejects Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Conrad, Jr. et al. in view of Vreeland et al. as applied to Claims 11 and 17, and further in view of Yin et al.. This rejection is respectfully disagreed with, and is traversed below.

The Examiner states that “Conrad, Jr. shows the process as claimed as discussed in the rejection of Claims 11 and 17 above, but he does not show a shaving aid body that comprises a soap material. Yin shows that it is known to carry out a method for making a shaving aid cartridge wherein the shaving aid body comprises a soap material (Column 4, lines 49-56).” See the Office Action at page 9, first paragraph.

Assuming, arguendo, that the proposed combination of Conrad, Jr. et al., Vreeland et al. and Yin et al. is proper and that Yin et al. disclose a shaving aid body that comprises a soap material as is asserted by the Examiner, points that are neither admitted nor denied, Yin et al. are not seen to cure the above argued deficiencies in the application of Conrad, Jr. et al. and Vreeland et al. to the subject matter as now recited in independent Claim 11 at least since the proposed combination of Conrad, Jr. et al., Vreeland et al. and Yin et al. does not expressly or implicitly, describe or suggest all of the subject matter of independent Claim 11, as now written. In view thereof, the proposed combination does not render Claim 18 obvious, at least since Claim 18, either directly or through intervening claims, depends from and further limits independent Claim 11.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Conrad, Jr. et al. in view of Vreeland et al., and further in view of Yin et al.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for immediate allowance. Early and favorable action is hereby respectfully requested.

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Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. To expedite prosecution of this application to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney to discuss any issues relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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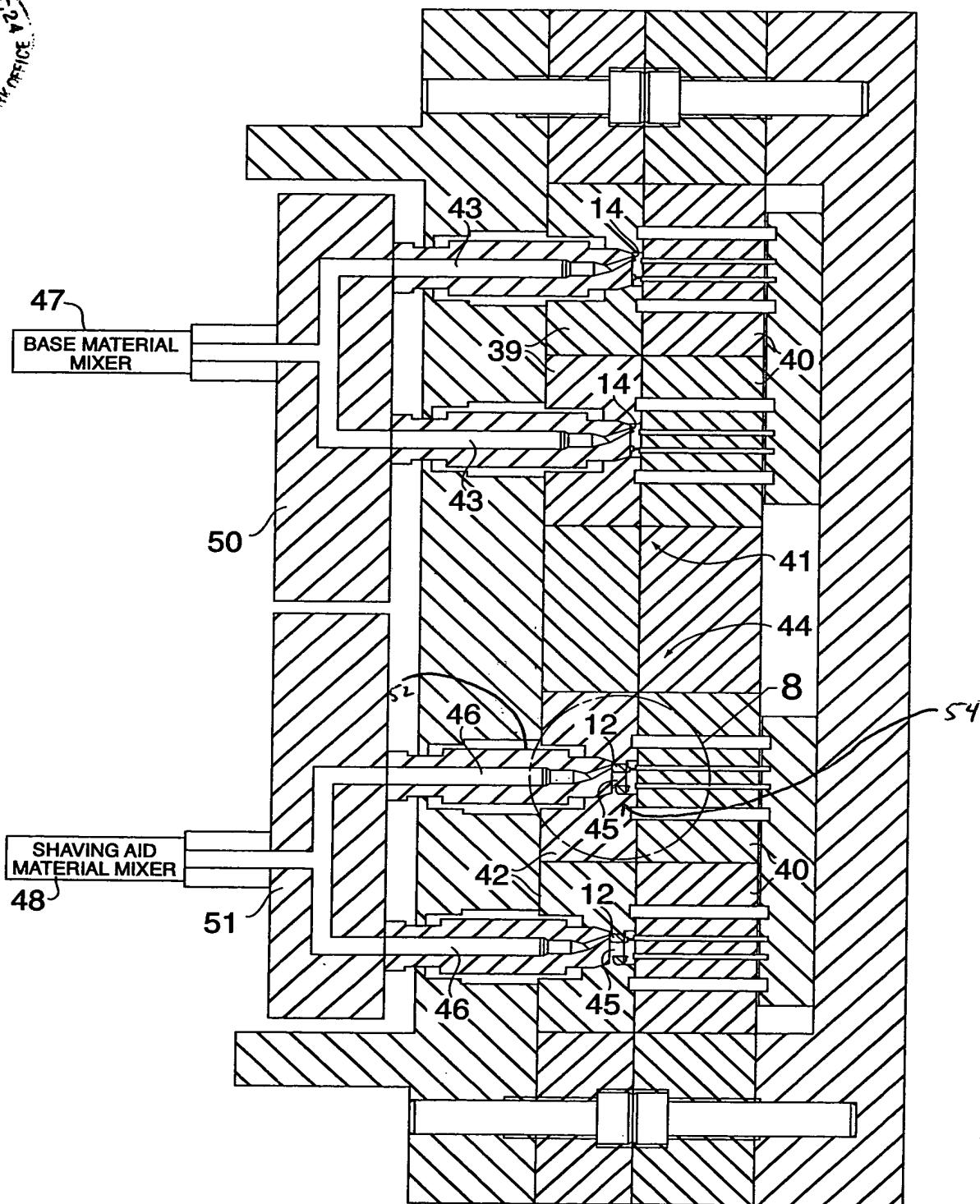


FIG. 7

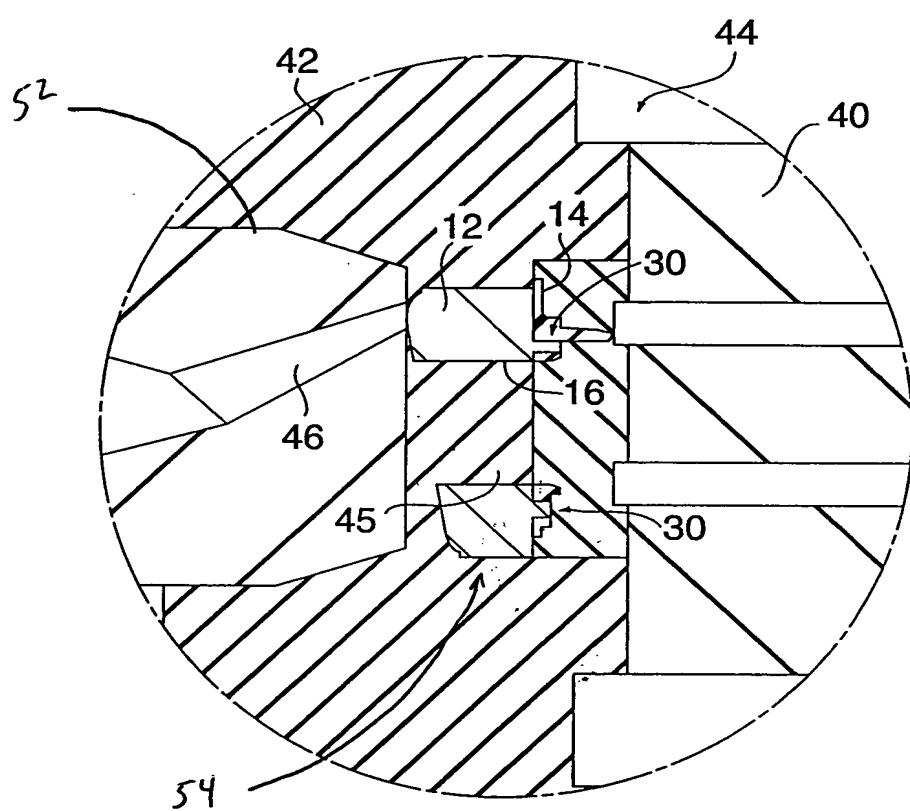


FIG. 8